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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
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The following plants in Czechoslovakia manufacture sulfuric acid:

North Bohemian Chemical Works

1. The North Bohemian Chemical Works (Severoceske chemicke zavody), formerly known as the Association for Chemical and Metallurgical Production (Spolek pro chemickou a hutni vyrobu), Usti nad Labem, produces about 30,000 tons of sulfuric acid per year.
2. This plant manufactures sulfuric acid by the Contact method, employing vanadium contact masses in catalysis. The raw materials used are pyrites, zinc blende (sphalerite) and barium sulphide. Products consist of fuming sulfuric acid, 100% technical sulfuric acid and 100% chemically pure sulfuric acid.
3. This plant's output is earmarked primarily for the manufacture of aniline dyes, for electric storage batteries, for the manufacture of Glauber's salt, for the needs of the northern Bohemian glass industry, for the production of barium sulfate and for various laboratories all over Czechoslovakia.

West Bohemian Chemical Works

4. The West Bohemian Chemical Works (Zapadoceske chemicke zavody), formerly the Jodasta (Johann David Starok) plant, in Kaznejov (N 50/L 05), is one of the oldest sulfuric acid-producing plants in Europe. At the beginning of the Czechoslovak Five-Year Plan in 1948, production was about 25,000 tons annually, but this is to be raised to about 75,000 tons by the end of the Five-Year Plan. The increased production is intended to assist in increasing the production of artificial fertilizers.
5. This plant manufactures sulfuric acid by the Chamber method, using local

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raw materials such as the so-called vitriolic slate or shale which is found in the neighborhood of Kaznejov. Thus, the plant is independent of imported pyrites.

6. This plant produces fuming sulfuric acid, which is shipped to the Synthesis plant at Semtin for the manufacture of explosives, and technical sulfuric acid, which is used in the manufacture of alum, green and blue stone and phosphoric fertilizers.¹ This processing of technical sulfuric acid is done partly in the Kaznejov plant, partly at the Chemical Works (Lucebni zavody) at Kolin, and partly at the chemical plant at Chernice,² near Horni Litvinov.

North Moravian Chemical Works

7. The North Moravian Chemical Works (Severomoravske chemicke zavody), formerly the Hrusov Chemical Works, Hrusov, near Ostrava, has a yearly output of about 20,000 tons of sulfuric acid. Processing is done in Glover towers.
8. This plant's output is used for the manufacture of inorganic pigments such as zinc white, blanc fixe and white lead. Sulfuric acid is shipped from here to the Nitrogen Plant (Dusikarny) at Moravska Ostrava, as well as to the Synthesis plant at Semtin, for the manufacture of nitric acid.
9. Pyrites used by this plant come from the USSR by rail, being routed via Poland.

Central Slovakian Chemical Works

10. The Central Slovakian Chemical Works³ (Stredoslovenske chemicke zavody), formerly the Association for Chemical and Metallurgical Production, in Zilina, has a yearly capacity of 28,000 tons of technical sulfuric acid and works with a combined Chamber and Contact method of production. Like the Hrusov plant, this plant depends on Soviet pyrites for raw material.
11. About 50% of this plant's sulfuric acid output is processed into fertilizer at the Zilina plant; the remainder is shipped to the Slovakian Cellulose Works⁴ at Ruzomberok and to the J. Dimitrov (formerly Dynamit-Nobel) plant at Bratislava.

Other Sources of Sulfuric Acid

12. Apart from the above-cited sources of raw materials for the manufacture of sulfuric acid, sulfur is also extracted from the cleansing substances used in the gas industry. Sulfur has also been gained from waste products of the chemical industry. For example, a large installation has been built in the Gottwald Plant in Otrokovice (P 50/011), which oxidizes waste hydrogen sulfide into sulfur. Raw sulfur is also obtained from plaster of Paris (calcium sulfate, from water used for cleaning and from wastes in the coking plants of the Stalin Works near Horni Litvinov and in Moravska Ostrava.

1 Comment: Probably calcium phosphate.

Comments:

2. Possibly Cernice, near Horni Litvinov, is meant.
3. Possibly identical with the Povazskechemicke zavody, Zilina.
4. Possibly identical with either the Solo or Supra paper and cellulose plant, Ruzomberok.